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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE H, ON INCREASED MIGRATION AND IN- TERCHANGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

A study of the practicability of increased migration and interchange of graduate students must necessarily take into account previous investigations of a similar kind. Such investigations have been conducted by the Association of American Universities and are reported in its Proceedings as follows:

The Migration of Graduate Students, President Ira Remsen of Johns Hopkins University, Proceedings, Association of American Universities, Second Annual Meeting, 1901, Chicago.

Report on Statistics Concerning the Migration of Graduate Students, Dean E. A. Birge, University of Wisconsin, Proceedings Association of American Universities, Third Annual Conference, 1902, Chicago.

As a basis for further discussion of the subject, it seems advisable to present a summary of these reports.

President Remsen emphasized the broadening effect of migration by bringing the graduate students in contact with more than one leader in the principal subject followed, and concluded that if it is customary to advise our best students to go elsewhere, then migration is in a healthy state and requires no further discussion. He expressed the opinion that the advantages of migration have not come to be clearly recognized for the following reasons:

The traditions of our colleges are against it and counteract migration in university life.

Loyalty of college students to their institution has also affected our university students.

More serious than either of the above is the difficulty of adjusting the work done in one university with that to be done in another, which causes loss of time to those wishing to study for a Ph.D. in more than one institution.

Advertising, free tuition, scholarships, fellowships to increase the number of graduate students in attendance are not in the interest of healthy migration.

The discussion of Mr. Remsen's paper developed a consensus of opinion that migration was in effect to a considerable extent and was being encouraged in many leading institutions. The advantages as well as the disadvantages of fellowships were fully brought out.

Dean Birge was requested by the Executive Committee to prepare a report on statistics concerning migration. A very exhaustive report was presented by Dean Birge at the third Annual Meeting in 1902, on the migration of those graduate students who received their Ph.D. during the years 1896-1901 inclusive and of students in their last year of study for the Ph.D. in 1901.

The investigation was based on reports from the institutions in the Association, then 14, for each individual concerning (1) the institution conferring the Bachelor degree, (2) the place of study during each graduate year, (3) the department of the major subject, (4) fellowships or similar positions held. Eleven institutions rendered 1,437 reports on 1,168 persons who had received the Ph.D. degree and 269 reports on students in their last year. The total number of migrants of both classes was 446. The average per cent. of migrants of the first class was 30, of the latter 38, which shows a tendency of increasing migration, which on the whole is borne out by a classification by years. Arranged by subjects, English, Chemistry, and Mathematics had the smallest, while Economics and Modern Languages had the largest per cent. The high per cent. for Modern Languages was due to study in Europe. The per cent. varied in the different institutions from 6 at Yale to 52 and 58 at Chicago and Wisconsin. Change of institution immediately after receiving the Bachelor degree or attendance only at summer schools was not considered.

If migration in graduate standing from a small institution not in the Association, where the work is chiefly undergraduate, to a reporting institution is excluded, the per cent. of migration is reduced to 18.

It is interesting to note that of the 446 graduate migrants of both classes, 181 migrated from a non-Association to an Association institution, 156 among Association institutions, and 109 included European institutions.

A study of the migrants among six reporting Atlantic seaboard institutions reveals some interesting figures concerning the proportion of migrants of a given institution taking their degree from that institution. Thus of 34 and 25 migrants of Harvard and Johns Hopkins respectively only six each took their degree at these institutions. The remainder migrated for the degree to some other institution. Yale breaks even with 5 to 5, Columbia and Cornell conferred the Ph.D. on two-thirds of their migrants, the former on 18 out of 29, the latter on 13 out of 20, while Pennsylvania conferred the Ph.D. on all but 3 of its reported 28 migrants.

About 75 per cent. have received their Ph.D. from the institutions granting the Bachelor degree, and of these only 16 per cent. also studied elsewhere, namely, 5 per cent. only in the United States and 11 per cent. in Europe.

Including those changing immediately after receiving the Bachelor degree, the migration among Association universities is 53 per cent. of the total. Bachelors and migrants from other colleges are 37 per cent. Of twenty Bachelors of Leland Stanford University, 12 took their Ph.D. elsewhere. Pennsylvania conferred the Ph.D. on 44 of its own 45 Bachelors.

Conclusions:

- (1) Migration in U.S. amounts to about one-third as compared to two-thirds in Germany of all receiving the Ph.D.
- (2) There are great differences in different institutions. In each university a fairly constant, slight tendency to increase in later years is noticeable.
- (3) Variations exist in different subjects.
- (4) Causes:
 - (a) Superior facilities (from smaller to larger) explains one-third.
 - (b) Fellowships, etc., favor and hinder migration to a large but indeterminable extent.
 - (c) Sentiment toward institutions granting Bachelor degrees tends strongly to prevent migration.

Nearly twenty years have elapsed since the conclusions were drawn. It might prove interesting to bring these statistics up

to date. We should probably find that migration has greatly increased and that the question of its desirability and practicability has answered itself in the affirmative in the years which have elapsed. The collection of statistics through questionnaire imposes burdens out of all proportion to the value of the object sought on the seeker of the information as well as on those who are to furnish it. If possible, our committee should abstain from engaging in the questionnaire nuisance, which often results in information from different sources which is not comparable. Migration statistics from 1915 to 1919 or even to 1920 would be of little value on account of the war and the period from 1902-15 lies too far in the past to assist in shaping our future course. It would seem more advantageous to attempt a regular reporting system on the part of graduate schools, commencing with the present academic year and to continue the same for five or six years, to obtain data for comparison with Dean Birge's report. The intervening statistics could probably be undertaken at our suggestion by some student in Education.

The conditions are at present without doubt far more favorable to migration than they were twenty years ago. This appears to be due primarily to a more liberal attitude of graduate schools in recognizing Bachelor degrees from other institutions as equivalent to their own without rating differences in undergraduate curricula as deficiencies to the extent formerly practiced. As a matter of fact in some institutions the pendulum seems to have swung a little too far in the other direction to the disadvantage of a proper standard for higher degrees.

Migration is fortunately becoming an important factor in the undergraduate course due to the rapid expansion of the junior college movement. If we designate freshmen and sophomores as lower-division and juniors and seniors as upper-division students, the future alignment of upper-division students may be with the graduate students rather than with lower-division students as at present, a development which should be welcomed because it would produce a broader outlook and a more serious and scholarly attitude among juniors and seniors, who have together too long been afflicted with college provincialism. The graduate school can do much to aid this development by establishing contact with the seniors in the same institution.

Much may be gained in promoting the aims which migration is supposed to accomplish by a better realization of the universities, particularly the state universities, that there is a limit to the activities that can be done with distinction. It is sounder for a graduate school to attract students in a few fields in which it may excel than to attempt to cover every field of learning superficially. Institutions offering the best opportunities for graduate study and research in certain definite fields are even now well known. Greater recognition of their superiority by sister institutions will enable every graduate school to conserve its resources for concentration on its most distinguished departments and will result in exchange of students and better opportunities for them.

The majority of existing fellowships serve the purpose of recruiting the learned professions by attracting students to the institutions which offer them. In some cases no doubt the student makes his choice on the basis of the magnitude of the award rather than on the basis of the superior opportunities for graduate study and research. It may be well worth while to emphasize the value of traveling fellowships to be awarded to promising students for study at real centers of learning in their chosen fields. It would seem to be as great a distinction for an institution to have its distinguished students in sister institutions offering better opportunities in special fields as to attract promising students from other institutions.

Our immediate purpose should be (1) to stimulate and facilitate migration not for its own sake but for the sake of the advantages to be derived by the graduate student by changing to institutions where the greatest masters and facilities in his subject are available; (2) to counteract any tendency that may develop among graduate students to seek the line of least resistance in securing the Ph.D. degree.

A. O. LEUSCHNER, *Chairman.*

The Committee:

F. W. Blackmar, Kansas; A. T. Clay, Yale; J. H. Gray, Carleton; E. R. Hedrick, Missouri; F. W. Kelsey, Michigan; A. W. Meyer, Stanford; A. W. Small, Chicago; F. W. Taussig, Harvard; J. W. Young, Dartmouth; A. O. Leuschner, California, Chairman.